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D.C. IS SURE ON SUPPLY OF WEAPONS

Says Russia Tries 'To Substitute Terror For Reason'

Experts say U.S. will profit more from testing Page 4

By WILLIAM KNIGHTON, JR.
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Aug. 31—President Kennedy today described Russia's decision to resume nuclear testing as "atomic blackmail."

The action announced yesterday by Moscow is "designed to substitute terror for reason in the present international scene," a White House statement added.

The statement also declared that the Chief Executive is "entirely confident" this country's nuclear weapons are "wholly adequate" and the military is capable of delivering them where necessary in defense of the free world.

Effective Propaganda

There was no statement, however, that the United States Government had decided to resume testing also.

In fact, such an announcement is not now looked for in the immediate future. It can be said authoritatively that the Administration fully appreciates that the Soviet Union has given the free world the most effective propaganda item possible by its unilateral action yesterday, will let its full impact sink in throughout the world before any decision is announced.

Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, confirmed that this was the current strategy when he told newsmen on leaving the White House today after attending emergency conferences that: "This business of the Soviet Union ought to soak in hard—soak in hard everywhere."

Sees Congressmen

The President was in emergency meetings virtually all day. They started this morning, with a conference with the National Security Council and followed with a meeting with leading members of both parties of the Senate and House.

Late in the afternoon, Secretary Rusk and Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, both of whom were present at the two previously mentioned meetings, were back at the White House for further discussions with Mr. Kennedy.

The White House statement was issued following the National Security Council discussion and shortly after the members of Congress had left.

"Testing Free World"

The statement said: "The President met this morning with members of the National Security Council and with congressional leaders to discuss the resumption of nuclear testing by

the Soviet Union. It was recognized that the Soviet announcement was primarily a form of atomic blackmail, designed to substitute terror for reason in the present international scene.

"What the Soviet Union is obviously testing is not only nuclear devices but the will and determination of the free world to resist such tactics and to defend freedom."

"The President is entirely confident that the size of the United States nuclear weapons stockpile and the capabilities of individual weapons and delivery systems are wholly adequate for the defense needs of the United States and of the free world."

"The President shares the disappointment registered throughout the world that serious and sustained attempts to ban nuclear testing have come to this abrupt end."

The third paragraph of the statement apparently was written in the form in which it was released for several particular reasons.

"It's Up To You"

First, to let the free world know that "atomic blackmail" would not work, that the United States is ready for what may come, and second, to inform the masters of the Kremlin of the same thing.

Further, Andrew Hatcher, acting White House press secretary, was asked if the proper interpretation of that paragraph was that the United States has decided not to resume testing for "the time being, at least." He replied: "That is the way I would interpret it—but it's up to you."

This appeared to be further confirmation that the policy set, and believed to have been explained to the members of Congress, was that the United States has more to gain by letting Russia stand alone before world public opinion for increasing fallout dangers and threatening nuclear war than to say at this time that it too would again begin testing new weapons.

U.N. Presentation

It is believed possible the President might delay any such announcement until after this

a White House statement within a few days which would be more specific than was the statement today.

He said he hoped this country would get as much psychological advantages out of the situation as possible, and he said the White House meeting was a "good wholesome exchange of ideas."

Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said the conference was merely a briefing session to bring the congressional leaders up to date on the Soviet announcement, but that no specific course of United States action was disclosed.

Attending the National Security Council meeting, over which Mr. Kennedy presided, besides Rusk and McNamara, were: Vice President Johnson, Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission; Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, the President's personal military adviser; Paul H. Nitze, Assistant Secretary of Defense for international affairs; Foy D. Kohler, Assistant Secretary of State for European affairs.

Other Congressmen

Also Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency; John J. McCloy, the President's disarmament adviser; Edward R. Murrow, director of the United States Information Service, as well as additional members of the White House staff.

Some of those attending the meeting spilled over into the President's conference with the congressional leaders which followed. Others from Congress besides those already named were:

Senators Humphrey (D., Minn.), a member of the Foreign Relations Committee; Saltonstall (R., Mass.), Armed Services Committee; Poff (D., R.I.), Atomic Energy Committee; Jackson (D., Wash.), Armed Services and Atomic Energy Committees; Wiley (D., Wis.), Foreign Relations Committee; Symington (D., Mo.), Armed Services, Space, and Foreign Relations committees; Gore (D., Tenn.), Foreign Relations and Atomic Energy committees; and Ruchel (R., Cal.), Armed Services whip.

Representative McCormack (D., Cal.), House minority leader, also was present; House minority leader Morgan (D., Pa.), also of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Wilson (D., Ga.), House Armed Services Committee; and Albert